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(54) CELLULOSIC PARTICULATE MATERIAL AND ITS PRODUCTION

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To produce a cellulosic particulate material excellent in mechanical strength and having a large surface area while making it possible to relatively freely design the particle size depending upon applications by suspending small cellulosic particles in an alkaline solution to give a suspension and bringing the suspension into contact with a solution having a specified pH to connect the particles to one another so as to provide voids among the particles.

SOLUTION: Small porous cellulosic particles comprising, e.g. a cellulose (derivative) or regenerated cellulose and having a particle diameter of $20 \times 10-6$ to $3 \times 10-3$ m are suspended in an alkaline solution having a pH of at least 12 for at least 1 min, preferably at least 1 hr, to give a suspension having a concentration of at least 40 vol.%, preferably 50–75 vol.%. This suspension in the form of liquid droplets having a diameter of at most $3 \times 10-3$ m is brought into contact with an acidic solution having a pH of at most 8 and lower than that of the suspension for at least 1 min, preferably at least 1 hr, to connect the small cellulosic particles to one another so as to provide voids among the particles.

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